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excalibur

Michelle Hughes wins YFS presidential race

by Brent Poland

A new batch of student politicians are now preparing for the 1991-92 school year at York.

While Jean Ghomeshi and the old YFS executive goes out, Michelle Hughes, Nikki Gershbain, Ziad Hafez, Rob Centa and Elissa Horscroft are preparing for the year ahead.

The visibly excited candidates, Hafez, Gershbain and Hughes celebrated together in Central Square early Thursday morning after the ballot count was finally announced. Centa and Horscroft were both acclaimed.

Although the official election results took longer to determine, overall the campaign was much smoother with less mudslinging than last year. Hughes won the presidential seat, beating out DeMatteis by 250 votes.

"It was definitely quieter than last year," said outgoing YFS president Ghomeshi. "Last year, however, there was a greater variance of issues and twice as many candidates."

The long wait for results strained nerves, but all candidates took the good and the bad in stride. Second place runner Joe DeMatteis was no exception.

"I don't know why it took so long, but it was certainly nerve-racking," said DeMatteis. "Even though I lost, I am content with the process."

It was quite a victory for Hughes, former president of the Psychology Students Association and member of Vanier College. A large group of well-wishers and supporters joined Hughes and the other executives to celebrate the win.

"It has not hit home yet that I won," Hughes said Thursday night. "Perhaps after I get some sleep it might."

The race for VP Internal was quite close, as

was anticipated. The winner, Nikki Gershbain, was understandably delighted but made some concrete promises for the upcoming year.

"Hopefully, we will have in place some institutional mechanisms which will address problems such as accessibility and discrimination," Gershbain said. "Instead of just education, which in itself is important, we must have long term plans, and be productive."

Horscroft and Centa were quite happy about Hafez and Hughes being elected and both feel that the new executives look forward to an productive year.



A. CLIVE COHEN

THE PREZ STRIKES THE POSE: New YFS president Michelle Hughes tries the president's office preparing for May 1st when President Ghomeshi hands over the reins. Hughes and other candidates stayed up until 3:30 in the morning to hear the results. Hughes plans to fight the proposed increase in residence fees, racism and make changes to the YFS constitution.

New president plans changes

by Brent Poland

Now that the YFS elections are over, it is only a month until power changes hands. What is on the table for the next year's executives?

When asked what her priorities would be for the upcoming year, Hughes stated that the battle against residence increases is foremost on her list.

"This issue is the most important right now and we have people working on it as we speak," Hughes said.

Hughes also ranks an active race policy and mandatory course evaluations as close seconds. She feels that working with Chet Singh, director of Race and Ethnic Relations and VP Equality, Elissa Horscroft, will help to push an active race policy at York.

The YFS constitution is another issue on Hughes program.

"The YFS constitution is wide open, outdated and causing problems," Hughes said. GAT [Governing Affairs Tribunal] is running into trouble with, incidents like associate membership, which caused a big stir at Glendon."

According to Hughes, problems that might occur for the new executives include information not getting out to students and the need for larger student participation.

The electoral process was also problematic for many candidates. Although all agree that the elections ran smoothly this year, some did have problems with the structure itself.

Andrea Shettleworth, a presidential candidate this year, had no sour grapes about the proceedings but feels that the one week period

allotted to hear the candidates and understand their platforms was not sufficient.

Hughes, despite winning, also feels that more publicity was needed, especially on voting days to remind people to vote.

The question of candidates running on a slate or with running mates will not go away for the new executives. Ziad Hafez, vp finance for next year, has a slightly different opinion.

"It's not a question of a slate, we are all friends who have the same beliefs and we were elected into office," Hafez said. "There was no slate as such."

Hafez promised that his first goal would be to do his best to deliver promises regarding funding to clubs and services.

Joe DeMatteis, the other presidential candidate was not disappointed with his loss to Hughes.

"We had a strong showing and we ran a good race," DeMatteis said. "All I hope is that they [new executive] keep an open mind and don't repeat what happened this year."

VP External, Rob Centa, laid out some plans for his term in office.

Centa plans to tackle the OFS/CFS scene. He wants to bring up a gender neutral language policy for the CFS service publications, address the eurocentric nature of the CFS' Canadian Traveller and the question of differential fees, drawing on the model set up by the University of Manitoba.

For Centa, the biggest problem that exists for the new executives will be their ability to mobilize and politicize York students.

"The five of us will not achieve our agenda by ourselves," Centa said. "We must work with students both within and outside York."

1991-92 YFS election results

Candidates	Votes	Candidates	Votes	Candidates	Votes	Candidates	Votes
President		Vice President Finance		Vice President Internal		Board of Governors Rep	
MICHELLE HUGHES	1116	ZIAD HAFEZ	980	NIKKI GERSHBAIN	1100	CAROLINE WINSHIP	1232
Joe DeMatteis	890	Paul Brienza	695	Michael Holt	836	Mike Dobson	1035
Andrea Shettleworth	510	Michael Wasinushi	666	Ron Stubbings	394		